

FLOOEY

Bear in Mind This Particular Bucket Had a Cross on It.

By Vio



## Inside the Ring

with the  
**Great Fighters**  
Charley White.

Weir's Famous Battle With Frank Murphy Without a Decision Lasted Five and One-Half Hours and Was Stopped Only When the Sheriff Appeared.

### NO. 9—IKE WEIR.

PROMINENT among the list of long-distance contests in the history of the prize ring is the battle that took place one Saturday night in the upper story of an old building in a little one-horse town in Indiana called Knotts, about sixty miles from Chicago on the Lake Erie and Western Railroad. In this dirty, dingy, lamp-light hall, while outside the rain beat steadily, and two men fought through the night until the dawn to decide a world's championship. One of these men was Ike Weir, a native of Ireland, an American by adoption, and at that time featherweight champion of the world and holder and defender of the Fox championship belt. The other was Frank Murphy, a man of Irish descent but born in Birmingham, England, and holding the title of featherweight champion of Great Britain. This battle began at 1 o'clock in the morning of March 21, 1899, and lasted nearly five hours and a half.

At that time there was no one in America capable of beating the "Soldier" Tommy. Weir had failed, Johnny Murphy had failed, having could do no better than a draw, Jack Farrell, Tommy Danforth, Willie Clarke, George Siders—none of these, the best men in the featherweight division that America could furnish, had been able to stop the coming of the great little Irishman. Murphy had failed, having could do no better than a draw, Jack Farrell, Tommy Danforth, Willie Clarke, George Siders—none of these, the best men in the featherweight division that America could furnish, had been able to stop the coming of the great little Irishman.

How Different These Days! Nowadays a world's championship contest is a decided and very different thing. A battle for a world's championship at the present time has a big brass band attachment. It is heralded for and under vastly changed conditions. The newspaper print columns of articles about the fighters, their records, their weights and measurements, their training, the blows upon which each fighter has won his victory, and much else of interest to the sporting public. In these days a world contest is witnessed by thousands and the description of the fight and the scenes attendant upon it are read by thousands more; then, probably not more than one hundred or one hundred and fifty people saw the struggle, and very few more read or heard of it until long after. Nowadays the sheriff or the head of the police is at the ringside with a force of men to preserve order; then, the greatest excitement was observed and every precaution taken to keep the news of the affair from the ears of the authorities.

The fight was fought on another night for this fight, being placed at 12 o'clock to suit Murphy. The prize was \$1,000 and a portion of the gate receipts. Weir was backed by Ed McAvoy and Murphy by Capt. Bill Daly, both of Boston. The referee was Billy Meyer and the fight was to be a finish.

Through the seemingly bottomless Indiana mud, with a dreary, drizzling rain falling steadily. Every one was warned to be quiet for fear of disturbing the sleeping rustics and arousing the local authorities, so the procession wound its sticky way to the hall as silently as a funeral train. When the 100 men had got into the hot, stuffy hall the doors were locked and a keeper placed on guard. The local authorities had been "seen" evidently, for none of them came to disturb the battle proceedings. Several grafters did attempt to imperate officers of the law, but they were unceremoniously kicked out into the rain and darkness.

### "What's in a Name."

The ring had been erected in the middle of the floor and elevated about three feet. In Murphy's corner sat Capt. Bill Daly and Mike Daly; in Weir's sat Ed McAvoy, Bill Richards and "Handsome Dan" Murphy. The latter was appointed official timekeeper. When Weir heard this he objected. McAvoy said: "Dan is my friend and if I'm willing to trust him with my money I don't see where you have any kick coming."

"But his name is Murphy and the man I'm to fight is named Murphy also, and the Murphy's always stick together," replied Ike.

"Don't worry about that. Go on and fight; you'll get a square deal all right."

So Weir withdrew his objection to the good old Irish name. The betting was not very brisk, and such of it as was done favored Weir.

Murphy proved to be a fighter much on the style of Jim Mac and Jim Kearney. He stood straight up and depended mostly on straight jabs. He had a healthy wallop in his right mit, which he used with very good effect on Weir. As usual, the play for his opponent's face, particularly the eyes, but Murphy proved himself very clever and, while Weir cut his opponent's optics quite a bit, the Birmingham man was by no means blinded. Murphy played for Weir's stomach, and was very successful in landing that right on the ribs as he ducked Ike's leads for the face.

### Weir's Hands Bad.

Murphy took things quite seriously. On the other hand, Weir, as usual, played a lot of his tricks, and for a while had the crowd in a state of laughter, but he wasn't very successful in bringing smiles to the face of his sturdy little opponent. Up to the seventh round Weir had the better of the fighting, and Murphy was pretty well banged up around the head. But the little Eng-

lishman was thoroughly game, and he continued to bore in, improving and freshening all the while. Along toward the forty-fifth round things became very slow. Weir's hands were beginning to go back on him, and there was very little fighting. Once Murphy suggested changing the affair to London rules, and Weir agreed, but the referee and the backers refused.

The crowd called for a draw. The referee announced that there would be no draw and that the men would fight until one was knocked out. The betting had now swung over to Murphy. However, Murphy had no more chance of knocking out Weir than Weir had of putting the Birmingham boy away to dreamland. At times the men would have a spurt of fast fighting for a round, and then they would loaf for four or five sessions. Whenever Weir chose to take the offensive he had no difficulty in landing when and where he pleased. But his hands were getting worse, and all he could hope for was a draw. Murphy was pretty badly cut up, and one of his arms was in bad shape. So the affair dragged on, while the crowd yelled for action.

Finally, about 6:30 on Sunday morning, just as the men were taking the centre of the ring for the eighth round, the sheriff, accompanied by most of the townsmen, arrived and ordered the fight stopped. The referee refused to call the affair a draw, and announced that the men must finish the fight a week later. This was not done, however, and eventually the purse and gate receipts were divided. Both men were badly cut up and totally exhausted. As usual, Weir's hands were about the size of sponges, and the gloves had to be cut from them. Each man agreed that the other was the best fighter he had ever met.

### HUMPHRIES TAKES BLACK RUNNER UNDER HIS WING.

Joseph Humphries just must have some sort of an athlete tucked under his managerial wing or else he feels entirely out of the sporting game. Until now Joe has made it a practice to handle fighters only, and it will surprise the public to hear that he has taken charge of a dusky professional distance runner. The boy's name is Joe Trent, and he declares he will be the only "black hope" to start against Bill Quaal and the bunch of cracks that will toe the mark in the special race to be held by the Irish Volunteers at Celtic Park, Aug. 13. However, there seems to be some doubt as to whether or not Trent's entry will be accepted by the management of the race, and he may have to put off meeting the great Quaal until some time in the future.

Champion Larned Has Lame Arm. William A. Larned, holder of the national lawn tennis title, has a lame right arm, and he may not be able to meet the winner of the tournament at Newport. He went to Chicago to get treated, and the doctor told him that he mustn't use the member for some time to come. Even if he is all right by the time of the tournament he won't be in good form to play on account of lack of practice, and it is likely that he will forfeit the championship.

### CORKS AND KILDARES TO KICK ANOTHER GAME.

This season's play in Gaelic football has greatly strengthened the fast teams of the Cork and Kildare men. They have played a nip and tuck series and have made a fine record, drawing the biggest gatherings ever seen at Celtic Park.

Next Sunday, at the picnic and games of the Cavan Men's P. and H. Association, the two teams will face each other again. They will be on the field sharp at 3:30. The Wexford and Armagh will kick match at 2:30. Tipperary will meet Clare in a hurling match at 5 P. M., to be followed by contests in Irish dancing; so it should be a great day for Ireland.

### SEA GIRL HORSE SHOW.

The annual Sea Girl and Spring Lake Horse Show opened at Sea Girl, N. J., yesterday. Mrs. C. Cecil Piller of Philadelphia carried off four blue ribbons.

The first was in the opening event for saddle horses. Lady Rand, a chestnut mare, ridden by Mrs. Piller, getting the prize. She also won firsts with Pandora Queen in the class for road horses; with

Pink Lady and Florham King, for pairs, and in the tandem class, with Sporting Extra and Pandora Queen.

Morton Schwartz's chestnut gelding Durban, which was given the prize as the best all around horse at the recent Long Branch show, took two firsts yesterday. Merry Widow, owned by the Donnybrook Farm, had things all her own way in the class for hunters and jumpers.

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